

Fr. Joseph's Corner "St. Joseph"

Everything we know about Mary's husband and Jesus' foster father comes from Scripture, and that has seemed too little for those who created legends about him.

We know he was a carpenter, a working man. He wasn't rich because, when he took Jesus to the Temple to be circumcised and Mary to be purified, he offered the sacrifice of two turtledoves or a pair of pigeons, allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb.

Despite his modest work and means, Joseph came from a royal lineage. Luke and Matthew disagree somewhat about the details of Joseph's genealogy, but both trace his descent from David. In fact, the angel who first tells Joseph about Jesus greets him as "son of David," a royal title also used for Jesus.

We know Joseph was a compassionate, caring man. When he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his but was unaware that she was carrying the Son of God. He understood that women accused of adultery could be stoned to death, so he decided to send her away quietly to protect her from shame and cruelty. However, when an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." He obeyed the angel and took Mary as his wife.

When the angel came again to tell him that his family was in danger, he immediately left everything he owned, all his family and friends, and fled to a strange country with his young wife and the baby. He waited in Egypt



without question until the angel told him it was safe to go back.

We know Joseph loved Jesus. His only concern was for the safety of the child entrusted to him. Not only did he leave his home to protect Jesus, but upon returning, he settled in the quiet town of Nazareth out of fear for his life. When Jesus stayed in the temple, we are told Joseph (along with Mary) searched with great anxiety for three days. We also know that Joseph treated Jesus as his own son because, repeatedly, the people of Nazareth said of Jesus, "Is this not the son of Joseph?"

Because Joseph does not appear in Jesus' public life, at his death, or at his resurrection, many historians believe that Joseph probably died before Jesus began his public ministry.

Joseph is also the patron saint of the Universal Church, of families, fathers, expectant mothers, travelers, immigrants, house sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers, and working people in general.

We celebrate two feast days for Joseph: March 19th for Joseph, the Husband of Mary, and May 1st for Joseph, the Worker. March 19th has been the most celebrated feast day for Joseph, and it wasn't until 1955 that Pope Pius XII established the Feast of "St. Joseph the Worker" to be celebrated on May 1st. This is also May Day (International Workers' Day) and is believed to reflect Joseph's role as the patron of workers.

There is much we still wish we could know about Joseph—exactly where and when he was born, how he spent his days, and exactly when and how he died. But Scripture has left us with the most important knowledge: who he was—"a righteous man."

—*Prayerful Wishes, Fr. Joseph*

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE ON OUR PRAYER LIST:

David Leonard ♦ Steve Forrester ♦ Carl Johnson ♦ Dolores Koivisto ♦ Anita Marquez ♦ Ben Guyger
Georgia Fitzgerald ♦ Chuck Renwick ♦ John Huthmacher ♦ Ed McNamara ♦ Brittany
Duncan Osgood ♦ Julie Bither ♦ Mary Bither ♦ Lyn Rodgers ♦ Fred Vandehey ♦ Ralph Lee
Mary Lee ♦ Jeanne Hackett ♦ Peggy Holtz ♦ Michael Kuenzi ♦ Mary Ellen Marquez ♦ Barbara Hopla
Gilbert Marquez ♦ Sam LeFevre and the LeFevre family ♦ Joanie Holland ♦ Tara Lamb
Julian Gomez ♦ Vanessa Ortega ♦ Mary Ellen Schiedler ♦ Carolyn Ausborn

St. Joseph Catholic Church

150 E First St., P.O. Box 1315, Prineville OR 97754

March 15, 2026 † 4th Sunday of Lent

Vigil Mass Saturday	5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass (English)*	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Mass (Spanish)	12:00 p.m.
Holy Days	8:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Mondays • Tuesdays • Thursdays	8:00 a.m.
Wednesdays • Fridays	12:00 p.m.

*Coffee and fellowship are served after the 9 a.m. Mass.

Pastor ♦ Very Rev. Fr. Joseph Kunnelaya T.
Secretary ♦ Darlene Counts

Parish Office Hours ♦ Monday – Thursday ♦ 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Parish Office Telephone: (541) 447-6475

Fr. Joseph: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. ♦ (541) 420-4458

Parish Website: <https://stjosephsprineville.org>

Email: stjosephparish@bendbroadband.com

Pastor: fatherjoseph@bendbroadband.com / joekunel55@gmail.com

Facebook: St. Joseph Parish / Instagram: st._josephparish

Director of Religious Education ♦ Barbara Dalton

OCIA ♦ Jim Friese / OCIA (Spanish) ♦ Yurizet Villasana

Parish Bulletin Designer / Editor ♦ Tina Hill



Confessions

Wednesdays: 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

(other times by appointment)

Anointing of the Sick

Contact Fr. Joseph for this Sacrament

- ♦ DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET AND CENACLE GROUP: Every Monday after the 8 a.m. Mass.
- ♦ FRIDAY ROSARY at 11:30 a.m., MASS at 12:00 p.m., EXPOSITION of the Blessed Sacrament immediately following Mass, EUCHARISTIC ADORATION 1–2 p.m., BENEDICTION AND REPOSITION



Baptisms

Baptisms will be held on Saturdays.

Parents of children to be baptized must be registered members of the parish 6 months prior to baptism.

A Baptismal Preparation Class is mandatory for both parents and godparents.

For more information, call the Parish Office.

Marriages

Couples need to make an appointment with Fr. Joseph 6 months before the proposed date.

A Marriage Preparation Course is mandatory.

MASS INTENTIONS / READINGS FOR THE WEEK

The practice of requesting a Mass to be offered for loved ones, living or deceased, is a beautiful and wonderful part of our Catholic tradition.

Please Call the Parish Office to Have a Mass Intention Reserved

Monday	03/16/2026	8:00 a.m.	Isryel Aguirre (L)	Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday	03/17/2026	8:00 a.m.	Blaine Tocher (L)	Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday	03/18/2026	12:00 p.m.	Elaine McNamara (D)	Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30
Thursday	03/19/2026	8:00 a.m.	Howard Tocher Family (L)	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a
Friday	03/20/2026	12:00 p.m.	Dale Geiman (L)	Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday	03/21/2026	5:00 p.m.	Parishioners of St Joseph (L)	Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45
Sunday	03/22/2026	9:00 a.m.	Frank Davis Jr (L)	Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45
Sunday	03/22/2026	12:00 p.m.	Martiniano Lopez Gonzalez (D)	Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

(L) = Living ♦ (D) = Deceased

Today's Homily

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT is known as *Laetare* (Rejoice) Sunday, expressing the Church's joy in anticipation of the Resurrection of our Lord. Today's readings remind us that it is God Who both gives us proper vision in body as well as in soul and instructs us that we should be constantly on our guard against spiritual blindness.



from the temple, and they were afraid. The man, however, maintained that Jesus opened his eyes and that God listens to those who worship and obey Him, so Jesus must be of God. By the end of this heated discussion, the man born blind was driven out of the temple.

What does Jesus do when he hears of the man's expulsion from the temple? He goes to him.

Jesus seeks him out and says, "Do you believe in the Son of Man? . . . The one speaking with you is he. And the man born blind worshipped him."

Friends, when any member of the body of Christ is hurt by another person, and especially by a member of the Church, Jesus seeks that member of His body. Jesus wants to find every lost or hurting sheep. If anyone has been hurt by a member of the Church or made to feel unwelcome or unloved, Jesus, Himself, is seeking that person. Jesus knows our hearts, and He seeks out every single person—especially those most in need of healing.

And when he finds us, sitting with our wounds or working through them, He comes with compassion. He asks us, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" May He find each of us able to proclaim, "Yes, Lord, I believe."

Presenting the miracle of Jesus' giving of sight to a man born blind, today's Gospel teaches us the necessity of being willing to have our eyes opened by Faith, and warns us that those who assume they see the truth are often blind, while those who acknowledge their blindness are given clear vision. In this episode, the most unlikely person; namely, the beggar born blind, receives the light of Faith in Jesus, while the religion-oriented, law-educated Pharisees remain spiritually blind.

To live as a Christian is to see and to grow continually, gaining a clearer vision about God, about ourselves, and about others.

Our Lenten prayers and sacrifices should help to heal our spiritual blindness so that we can look at others, see them as children of God, and love them as our own brothers and sisters, saved by the death and Resurrection of Jesus.

By describing the anointing of David as the second king of Israel, the first reading, taken from the First Book of Samuel, illustrates how blind we are in our judgments and how much we need God's help. It reminds us that those whom God involves in His saving plans are not necessarily those whom the world perceives as great.

In the second reading, St. Paul reminds the Ephesians of their new responsibility as children of light, "To live as children of the light, producing every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth." In today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 23), we celebrate the care of God, our Good Shepherd, Who keeps us safe in the darkness of this world.

In today's Gospel, we read of one of the most fascinating episodes in the life of Jesus. It is fascinating because it is as true today as it was 2,000 years ago. Jesus performs a miracle and a blind man can see. However, the Pharisees didn't believe the man, and they didn't believe Jesus. The Pharisees have the testimony of the man's parents, the testimony of the man himself, and the testimony of others who saw the miracle take place. That's not good enough. Their pride does not allow them to accept the truth.

Some of the Pharisees believed Jesus must have been a sinner because he performed this miracle on the Sabbath. The great irony, of course, is that they themselves were blind to the Light of the world: Jesus, the Son of God. The Pharisees questioned both the man and his parents and determined that the man had indeed been born blind. The parents didn't want to say how he gained his sight because they didn't want to be expelled

March—The Month of St. Joseph

Lenten Schedule

- ◆ Stations of the Cross, Friday Nights at 6 p.m., through March 27th.
- ◆ Lenten Penance, Wednesday, March 18th, at 6 p.m.
- ◆ Chrism Mass in Baker City, Thursday, March 26th, at 11 a.m.
- ◆ Palm Sunday, March 29th, Mass is at 9 a.m. Spanish Mass is at 12 p.m.
- ◆ Holy Thursday, April 2nd, at 6 p.m.
- ◆ Good Friday, April 3rd, Stations of the Cross at 3 p.m., Passion Service & Veneration of the Cross at 6 p.m.
- ◆ Holy Saturday, April 4th, Easter Vigil Mass is at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Easter Sunday, April 5th, Mass is at 9 a.m. Spanish Mass is at 12 p.m.



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Penance Service

Our Lenten Penance Service is on **Wednesday, March 18th, at 6 p.m.** Seven priests will be available, with four of them bilingual. Children who have received Communion and are enrolled in our Religious Education classes, including confirmation students, must attend with their parents.



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Soup Supper Schedule

Fridays in the Parish Hall, after Stations of the Cross, there will be a soup supper hosted by the following:

- March 20th—Religious Education
- March 27th—Knights of Columbus

Annual Ham Dinner

Please join us on **March 22nd** this year for our traditional Ham Dinner in the Parish Hall, **served from noon to 4 p.m.** Ticket prices are: Adults \$20, and children ages 6–12 are \$12. A family pass for two adults and two children is \$65, and both are sold at the door. Take-out meals are \$20 each. This year, we are offering **pre-sale tickets at a reduced rate** of \$18 for adults and \$10 for children, or a family pass for two adults and two children for \$55.

Tickets may be purchased at the Parish Office.

Parishioners have traditionally donated homemade desserts; you can drop them off the morning of the dinner to the right of the stage—please, no crème pies or any desserts that need refrigeration.

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2026 Chrism Mass

Bishop Thomas Hennen cordially invites you to the blessing of the oils and the renewal of priestly promises at the **2026 Chrism Mass on March 26th, at 11 a.m. in Baker City at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral. Reception to follow.**

If you cannot travel, you are invited to join via **live-stream at 11 a.m.**, or any time after on the Diocese of Baker Website Home Page at: www.dioceseofbaker.org.



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Easter Egg Hunt

Join us for an **"Easter Egg Hunt" on Saturday, March 28th, at 11 a.m. on the Parish lawn.**

Bring the kids to participate in the egg hunt and enjoy egg-dyeing in the Parish Hall.

We look forward to everyone coming together to enjoy the day!

